
Federal Communications Commission

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of

Comcast Cablevision of Michigan, LLC
Bad Axe, Michigan

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File No. EB-03-DT-502

NAL/Acct. No. 200432360001

FRN: 0006 8552 33

NOTICE OF APPARENT LIABILITY FOR FORFEITURE

Released: December 23, 2003

By the District Director, Detroit Office, Enforcement Bureau:

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In this Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture ("NAL"), we find that Comcast Cablevision of Michigan, LLC ("Comcast"), has apparently violated Section 17.4(a) of the Commission's Rules ("Rules")¹ by failing to register its antenna structure located at 842 N. Huron Avenue, Harbor Beach, Michigan. We conclude that Comcast is apparently liable for a forfeiture in the amount of three thousand dollars (\$3,000).

II. BACKGROUND

2. The Commission's obstruction marking and lighting of antenna structures and registration requirements operate in concert with the FAA regulations to ensure that antenna structures do not present hazards to air navigation. Generally, our rules require that antenna structures located close to airports or that are greater than 200 feet in height comply with painting and lighting specifications to ensure air safety. We require antenna structure owners to register structures with the Commission and post registration numbers near the base of structures to allow for easy contact if problems arise. The Rules require registration for all antenna structures that may pose a hazard to air navigation and have been in effect since 1996.² We have repeatedly advised antenna structure owners that all existing, unregistered antenna structures subject to our Rules must be registered immediately or the owners could face a monetary forfeiture or other enforcement action.³

¹ 47 C.F.R. § 17.4(a).

² Antenna structure owners were required to register existing antenna structures during a two-year filing period between July 1, 1998 and June 30, 1996, and to register new antenna structures prior to construction. *Streamlining the Commission's Antenna Structure Clearance Procedure*, 11 FCC Rcd 4272 (1995).

³ Subsequent to the expiration of the filing period, the Commission staff issued a *Public Notice* warning antenna structure owners to register any unregistered antenna structures subject to our requirements immediately or face possible monetary forfeitures or other enforcement action. *Public Notice*, "No-Tolerance Policy Adopted For Unregistered Antenna Structures," 1999 WL 10060 (WTB rel. Jan. 13, 1999).

3. Commission field agents routinely inspect antenna structures to determine compliance with antenna structure marking, painting, and lighting requirements and they also respond to reports of unlit towers. The FAA also routinely notifies Commission field offices when owners fail to report that lights have been repaired. On May 23, 2003, an agent from the Detroit Office conducted an inspection of an antenna structure located at 842 N. Huron Avenue, Harbor Beach, Michigan, at or near the geographical coordinates of 43° 51' 28" north latitude and 082° 39' 28" west longitude,. The agent observed no ASR number posted at the site. A search of Commission records and subsequent contacts with Comcast by the agent revealed that the antenna structure was subject to Part 17 of the Rules, was not registered, and accordingly, needed to be registered. The antenna structure was registered with the Commission on or about June 19, 2003.

III. DISCUSSION

4. Section 17.4(a) requires antenna structures which have been assigned painting or lighting requirements be registered with the Commission. Painting and lighting requirements had been assigned to Comcast's antenna structure, requiring registration with the Commission.⁴

5. Based on the evidence before us, we find that Comcast willfully⁵ and repeatedly⁶ violated Section 17.4(a) of the Rules by failing to register its antenna structure. *The Commission's Forfeiture Policy Statement and Amendment of Section 1.80 of the Rules to Incorporate the Forfeiture Guidelines*, 12 FCC Rcd 17087, 17113 (1997), *recon. denied*, 15 FCC Rcd 303(1999) ("*Forfeiture Policy Statement*")⁷, sets the base forfeiture amount for failure to file required forms or information at three thousand dollars (\$3,000). In assessing the monetary forfeiture amount, we must take into account the statutory factors set forth in Section 503(b)(2)(D) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, (the "Act").⁸ These factors include the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of the violation, and with respect to the violator, the degree of culpability, any history of prior offenses, ability to pay, and other such matters as justice may require. Applying the *Forfeiture Policy Statement*, statutory factors and the inflation adjustments to the base amount of Comcast's violation of \$3,000 for failure to register its antenna structure, we find no compelling evidence to support any adjustments to the base forfeiture amount. Thus, we believe that a forfeiture amount of three thousand dollar (\$3,000) is warranted.

IV. ORDERING CLAUSES

⁴ See 47 C.F.R. § 17.7(a).

⁵ Section 312(f)(1) of the Act, 47 U.S.C. § 312(f)(1), which applies to violations for which forfeitures are assessed under Section 503(b) of the Act, provides that "[t]he term 'willful', when used with reference to the commission or omission of any act, means the conscious and deliberate commission or omission of such act, irrespective of any intent to violate any provision of this Act" See *California Broadcasting, Co.*, 6 FCC Rcd 4387 (1991).

⁶ Section 312(f), which also applies to Section 503(b), of the Act, provides that: "[t]he term 'repeated', when used with reference to the commission or omission of any act, means the commission or omission of such act more than once or, if such commission or omission is continuous, for more than one day."

⁷ 47 C.F.R. § 1.80.

⁸ 47 U.S.C. § 503(b)(2)(D).

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6. Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT, pursuant to Section 503(b) of the Act and Sections 0.111, 0.311 and 1.80 of the Rules⁹, Comcast Cablevision of Michigan, LLC, is hereby NOTIFIED of this APPARENT LIABILITY FOR A FORFEITURE in the amount of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) for willful and repeated violation of Section 17.4(a) of the Rules.

7. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT, pursuant to Section 1.80 of the Rules, within thirty (30) days of the release date of this NOTICE OF APPARENT LIABILITY, Comcast Cablevision of Michigan, LLC, SHALL PAY the full amount of the proposed forfeiture or SHALL FILE a written statement seeking reduction or cancellation of the proposed forfeiture.

8. Payment of the forfeiture may be made by mailing a check or similar instrument, payable to the order of the Federal Communications Commission, to the Forfeiture Collection Section, Finance Branch, Federal Communications Commission, P.O. Box 73482, Chicago, Illinois 60673-7482. The payment should note the NAL/Acct. No. 200432360001, FRN: 0006 8552 33.

9. The response, if any, must be mailed to Federal Communications Commission, Enforcement Bureau, Spectrum Enforcement Division, 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20554 and MUST INCLUDE THE NAL/Acct. No. 200432360001, FRN: 0006 8552 33.

10. The Commission will not consider reducing or canceling a forfeiture in response to a claim of inability to pay unless the petitioner submits: (1) federal tax returns for the most recent three-year period; (2) financial statements prepared according to generally accepted accounting practices ("GAAP"); or (3) some other reliable and objective documentation that accurately reflects the petitioner's current financial status. Any claim of inability to pay must specifically identify the basis for the claim by reference to the financial documentation submitted.

11. Requests for payment of the full amount of this Notice of Apparent Liability under an installment plan should be sent to: Chief, Revenue and Receivables Operations Group, 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20554.¹⁰

12. Under the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act of 2002, Pub L. No. 107-198, 116 Stat. 729 (June 28, 2002), the FCC is engaged in a two-year tracking process regarding the size of entities involved in forfeitures. If you qualify as a small entity and if you wish to be treated as a small entity for tracking purposes, please so certify to us within thirty (30) days of this NAL, either in your response to the NAL or in a separate filing to be sent to the Spectrum Enforcement Division. Your certification should indicate whether you, including your parent entity and its subsidiaries, meet one of the definitions set forth in the list provided by the FCC's Office of Communications Business Opportunities (OCBO) set forth in Attachment A of this Notice of Apparent Liability. This information will be used for tracking purposes only. Your response or failure to respond to this question will have no effect on your rights and responsibilities pursuant to Section 503(b) of the Communications Act. If you have questions regarding any of the information contained in Attachment A, please contact OCBO at (202) 418-0990.

⁹ 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.111, and 0.311.

¹⁰ See 47 C.F.R. § 1.1914.

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13. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT this NOTICE OF APPARENT LIABILITY shall be sent by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, to Comcast Cablevision of Michigan, LLC, 1555 South Bad Axe Road, Bad Axe, Michigan 48413.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

James A. Bridgewater
District Director
Detroit Office

Attachment A - FCC List of Small Entities, October 2002.